

3 1761 1170864 0

Quick LOOK

at

CANADA'S FIREARMS LAW

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE FIREARMS ACT,
REGULATIONS AND SUPPORT MATERIAL.

Canada



Q. WHEN DID THE NEW LAW BEGIN?

- A. The *Firearms Act* and Regulations are being phased in starting December 1, 1998.

Q. WHO IS AFFECTED?

- A. The *Firearms Act* and Regulations apply to any person (including visitors to Canada) and any business that own, want to get or use firearms. The law deals with issues that affect:

firearm owners (including licensing; firearms registration, displaying, storing,

handling and transporting firearms; buying, selling, giving away and bartering firearms);

businesses that own firearms (including business licences; firearms registration; authorizations to import and export firearms; record keeping; buying and selling firearms); and

visitors to Canada (including bringing firearms into and out of Canada and borrowing firearms in this country).

Q. I OWN FIREARMS. WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT FIREARMS LICENCES?

- A. Under the *Firearms Act*, individuals must get a licence to possess (have, own) or acquire (obtain, get) a firearm.

You have until January 1, 2001 to get a licence for the firearms you possessed on December 1, 1998.

Until they expire, Firearms Acquisition Certificates (FACs) will serve as licences.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LICENCES AND FEES:

| TYPE OF LICENCE | REQUIREMENTS | FEES |
|--|--|---|
| POSSESSION ONLY | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> firearms owned on December 1, 1998 for adults (18 yrs or older) apply before January 1, 2001 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant and one other person must sign a statement confirming that an accompanying photo (of the applicant) accurately identifies the applicant. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$10 for 5 yrs starting December 1, 1998 \$45 for 5 yrs starting December 1, 1999 \$60 for 5 yrs starting September 1, 2000 |
| POSSESSION LICENCE FOR MINORS | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to possess non-restricted firearms minors 12-17 yrs sustenance hunters under 18 yrs | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A parent or guardian must give consent. The applicant and a parent or guardian must accept the conditions of the licence by signing a form, and confirm that the photo (of the applicant) with the application accurately identifies the applicant. Applicants must show proof that safety course requirements have been met (does not apply to sustenance hunters). <p>Minors can possess or use but cannot acquire or register firearms in their name.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$10: 0-1 yr. \$20: 1-2 yrs \$30: over 2 yrs |
| POSSESSION AND ACQUISITION | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to get non-restricted firearms to get restricted firearms to get another prohibited firearm in the same category for adults (18 yrs or older) also allows possession of currently owned firearms | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant and one other person must sign a statement confirming that an accompanying photo (of the applicant) accurately identifies the applicant. Two people (other than a spouse) must sign a statement confirming that they have known the applicant for at least three years and to the best of their knowledge and belief: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the information in the application is true; the applicant does not pose a threat to public safety. The applicant must provide the name, current address and telephone number of every spouse or common-law partner with whom the applicant has lived during the past two years. If their whereabouts are unknown, the applicant must make a written statement (on the form) to that effect. (Spouses and common-law partners will be notified about the application.) There is a minimum 28-day waiting period unless the applicant has a valid FAC or licence. Applicants must show proof that safety course requirements have been met. <p>There are additional requirements for restricted and prohibited firearms.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$60 for 5 yrs (non-restricted); OR \$80 for 5 yrs (restricted and prohibited) |
| ACQUISITION LICENCE FOR A CROSSBOW | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A possession and acquisition licence or a valid FAC can also be used to acquire crossbows. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant and one other person must sign a statement confirming that an accompanying photo (of the applicant) accurately identifies the applicant. Two people (other than a spouse) must sign a statement confirming that they have known the applicant for at least three years and to the best of their knowledge and belief: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the information in the application is true; the applicant does not pose a threat to public safety. The applicant must provide the name, current address and telephone number of every spouse or common-law partner with whom the applicant has lived during the past two years. If their whereabouts are unknown, the applicant must make a written statement (on the form) to that effect. (Spouses and common-law partners will be notified about the application.) There is a minimum 28-day waiting period unless the applicant has a valid FAC or licence. <p>Effective date to be announced.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$60 for 5 yrs |
| 60-DAY POSSESSION LICENCE | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for visitors to Canada (18 yrs or older) | For visitors borrowing firearms in Canada — effective date to be announced. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$30 for 60 days (may be renewed once at no charge) |

Sustenance hunters do not pay licence fees to have or get non-restricted firearms.

Q. WHAT ABOUT BUSINESSES LICENCES?

A. Activities, including simple possession (other than by private individuals), that have not required a business permit in the past may require a firearms business licence under the new law. A business licence sets out all the activities related to firearms that a business can carry out.

Businesses requiring licences include: museums, manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers, armoured car services and others. Fees for the licences vary depending on the type of business.

For details:

- call 1 800 731-4000; or
- contact your provincial or territorial Firearms Office.

Q. WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT REGISTERING MY FIREARMS?

A. The *Criminal Code* requires all firearms owned on December 1, 1998, to be registered by January 1, 2003. As of December 1, 1998:

- all imported firearms must be registered when they enter Canada; and
- individuals must immediately register any firearms that are transferred (sold, bartered or given away) to them.

Q. HOW DO I REGISTER MY FIREARMS?

- A. To register your firearms you need either a:
- valid FAC, which serves as a licence; or

- licence that covers the class (non-restricted, restricted, prohibited) of the firearm being registered (and for prohibited firearms, the grandfathered category).

You also need to give information for each firearm that is being registered, including make, model, serial number and so on. If the calibre and barrel length of a firearm can be changed, individuals can register more than one calibre and barrel length per firearm.

Once a firearm has been identified and classified as non-restricted, restricted or prohibited, the Registrar will issue a registration certificate for that firearm.

You only register your firearm once. Registration certificates are valid for as long as you own your firearm, unless you modify the firearm and change its class.

Q. WHAT IS A FIREARM IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

A. Every registration certificate has a firearm identification number (FIN). If your firearm has a serial number that identifies it from every other firearm, you don't have to put the FIN on the firearm.

You must put the FIN on the frame or receiver of the firearm if your firearm:

- doesn't have a serial number; or
- has a serial number that, with the other characteristics of the firearm, still doesn't identify it from every other firearm.

(The Registrar will tell you if you have to place the FIN on your firearm.)

If your firearm was:

- owned on December 1, 1998; and/or
- manufactured before, but imported after December 1, 1998 (whether the firearm is in Canada on that date or imported after that date)

you have a choice of either:

- placing the **FIN sticker** (provided by the Registrar) on the firearm; or
- permanently and clearly **engraving or stamping the FIN** on the firearm.

If your firearm was manufactured after December 1, 1998, you must permanently and clearly engrave or stamp the FIN on the firearm.

The FIN sticker, stamp or engraving must be on a visible part of the frame or receiver unless the Registrar says otherwise.

If you attach the FIN sticker to the firearm, you must do so within 30 days (or 90 days if you stamp or engrave the FIN on the firearm) of the registration certificate's issue date.

Q. WHAT HAPPENS IF I MODIFY MY FIREARM?

A. If you modify your firearm in a way that changes its class, you'll need a new registration certificate that shows the changes. The fee for this is \$12.50.

Q. How Much Does It Cost Me to Register my Non-restricted Firearms?

A. Between December 1, 1998 and January 1, 2003, there is **one flat registration fee** (that will gradually increase over that period) for all the firearms you owned before December 1, 1998. **You will get the bulk rate for those firearms that you register at one time.**

Firearms bought or received after December 1, 1998 cost \$25 per firearm to register. The following chart shows the registration fees:

| FEE | REQUIREMENTS | TIME FRAME |
|------|--|---------------------------------------|
| \$10 | for all firearms registered at the same time | December 1, 1998 - November 30, 1999 |
| \$14 | for all firearms registered at the same time | December 1, 1999 - August 31, 2000 |
| \$18 | for all firearms registered at the same time | September 1, 2000 - December 31, 2002 |
| \$25 | for each newly acquired firearm | after December 1, 1998 |

Businesses do not have to pay to register firearms. Sustenance hunters do not have to pay to register non-restricted firearms. Call 1 800 731-4000 for more information.

Q. WHAT ABOUT MY RESTRICTED FIREARMS?

A. If you own restricted or grandfathered prohibited firearms you already have their firearms registration certificates (as required under the old firearms law). You must confirm that the registration information is complete and up-to-date. Afterward, you will be issued new registration certificates free of charge.

Q. WHERE CAN I GET LICENCE AND REGISTRATION FORMS?

A. Licence and registration forms for individuals are available:

- at post offices;
- by calling toll-free 1 800 731-4000; and
- on the Canadian Firearms Centre Web site at: www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca.

You can also photocopy someone else's blank registration form.

Remember, you can apply for a firearms licence and register your firearms at the same time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call 1 800 731-4000; visit our Web site at www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca or e-mail the Canadian Firearms Centre at: canadian.firearms@justice.gc.ca